

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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THAT THESE RELATIONS DEVELOP NORMALLY AND FRIENDLY."

5. COMMENT: TARAKI'S REMARKS ON THE EVENT BREAK NO REV

GROUND, AS HE CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT BEARS NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OUTCOME, AND THAT ANY CRITICISMS ARE COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED AND AIMED AT UNDERMINING AFGHAN-U.S. RELATIONS. HIS JUSTIFYING THESIS THAT TERRORISM EXISTS EVERYWHERE, AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE ASSASSINATION OF AMERICAN PRESIDENTS IS, AT BEST, SELF-SERVING. PROTESTATIONS THAT HE AND THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT DESIRE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. HAVE BEEN HEARD OFTEN IN THE PAST. WE SUSPECT THAT TARAKI'S COMMENTARY MAY WELL BE THE LAST HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE EVENT.

AMSTUTZ

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E.O. 12865: GDS 3-12-85 (FLATIN, BRUCE A.) OR-M
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, US, AF
SUBJECT: TARAKI ADHERES TO PREVIOUS POSITIONS REGARDING DEATH
OF AMBASSADOR DUBS

2. SUMMARY: DURING A MARCH 11 SPEECH, AFGHAN PRESIDENT NOOR MDHAMMAD TARAKI CONTINUED TO DISCLAIM ANY GOVERNMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OUTCOME OF THE KIDNAPPING OF AMBASSADOR DUBS, INSISTED THAT THOSE WHO CRITICIZE THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS WISH TO UNDERMINE U.S.-AFGHAN RELATIONS, AND CLAIMED THAT HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT WANT FRIENDLY TIES WITH THE U.S. IN THE FUTURE. THESE THEMES REFLECT THOSE MADE BY OTHER AFGHAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN, AND TARAKI'S REMARKS CONCEIVABLY COULD BE THE LAST OFFICIAL HIGH-LEVEL COMMENTARY ON THE EVENT. END OF SUMMARY.

3. TARAKI CALLED THE KIDNAPPING AND KILLING OF AMBASSADOR DUBS A "TRAGIC EVENT," AND ADDED THAT "WE REALLY REGRETTED" THE INCIDENT. HE CLAIMED THAT THE NATION'S FLAGS HAD BEEN FLOWN AT HALF MAST, FOLLOWING THE AMBASSADOR'S DEATH (COMMENT: ONLY A FEW AFGHAN FLAGS WERE SEEN AT HALF-MAST ON THE SINGLE DAY DESIGNATED FOR THIS GESTURE), AND REPEATED THAT THE COUNTRY'S SECURITY FORCES HAD "TRIED HARD" TO SAVE AMBASSADOR DUBS. TARAKI EXPRESSED WONDER AT CRITICISMS OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS AND INSISTED THAT, IN COMPARISON TO AIRPLANE HIJACKINGS AND SIMILAR ACTS OF TERRORISM ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD, WHICH, ACCORDING TO TARAKI, PROVOKE NO COMMENT OR CONDEMNATIONS, "HERE ONLY ONE PERSON WAS KIDNAPPED". HE ADDED THAT "IN THE UNITED STATES THEY HAVE KILLED THE BEST PRESIDENTS," AND IN THE TEN MONTHS OF HIS REGIME DRODHHVNCSE THE DUBS KILLING WAS THE "FIRST TIME A FEW TERRORISTS AND THE ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE" UNDERTOOK AN ACTION DESIGNED "TO DAMAGE OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES."

4. TARAKI CLAIMED THAT "NOW WE WANT NEITHER TO BE ACCUSED FURTHER NOR (HAVE) OUR FRIENDSHIP DAMAGED AT ALL." HE ADDED THAT "WE WANT TO PRESERVE OUR REAL FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.," AND CLAIMED THAT ACCUSATIONS THAT THE DRA DID NOT DO ITS BEST TO SAVE THE AMBASSADOR'S LIFE ARE TOTALLY UNFOUNDED AND MOTIVATED BY A DESIRE TO DAMAGE U.S.-AFGHAN RELATIONS. TARAKI ASSERTED THAT TERRORISM EXISTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, INSISTED THAT THE DRA IS COMPLETELY FAULTLESS IN THE INCIDENT, AND THAT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ALONG THESE LINES SHOULD "BE GIVEN UP SO OUR FRIENDLY RELATIONS WILL NOT BE AFFECTED." CONCLUDING THIS THEME, TARAKI ASSERTED THAT "WE HAVE GREAT RESPECT" FOR THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND ADDED THAT "WE ARE INTERESTED

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